

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 3.

AURELIA, IOWA, JULY, 1897.

No. 5

GOLDEN WYANDOTTES

McKeen Strain. Exclusively.

50 YOUNG CHICKS

For sale. No culls. Write your wants. Prices to suit the times.

ALBERT MITZTALL, Abbottsford, Wis.

For 33 Years

I have bred the White Faced Black Spanish, and have made as close a study of the breed as anyone in America. Better birds than mine cannot be found. Circular and my photograph free if you mention The Messenger.

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Barred Plymouth Rocks.

I have Barred Plymouth Rock cockerels scoring 92 points, pullets and hens scoring from 88 to 91 points. Stock for sale in the fall at reasonable figures. Let me quote you prices.

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Buff Wyandottes

EXCLUSIVELY.

My patrons are in every part of the west, and my stock pleases them. It is equal to the best.

All my breeding pens for sale. Write for prices.

A lot of fine young stock coming on for the fall and winter demand.

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Have always won their share of prizes wherever shown. A fine lot of one and two year old hens for sale cheap if taken soon. Must sell to make room for the young stock. Young birds after September 1st. Address,

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—TO—

Sprague Commission Co.,
CHICAGO

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To have me on your list when in need of

Barred and White Plymouth Rocks.

Barred score 90 to 92½; White score 92½ to 95½. Two pens each. Eggs \$2.00 per 13.

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Having finished hatching for this season, I will sell the stock I bred from in lots to suit. Must be sold to make room for the youngsters.

White Wyandottes, Barred Plymouth Rocks,

G. A. C. CLARKE.

Pine Tree Poultry Farm. Le Mars, Iowa.

Cornish Indian Games, Exclu'y.

A few choice cockerels and pullets for sale after October 1st at hard time prices.

WM. A. BARTMAN, Litchfield, Illinois.

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Wymore, Neb.

Stock Printer.

Barred Plymouth Rocks

From high scoring stock. Cockerels \$1. to \$3; pullets \$1 to \$2. They will produce winners and layers.

MARTIN RICKARD, Grinnell, Iowa.

Eggs For Sale.

Barred and W. P. Rocks, Black Langshans, Light Brahmas, Single Comb Brown, Single Comb White, and Buff Leghorns, Buff Cochins, W. H. Turkeys, and Belgium Hares.

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SEND TO JOE FARMER, Flushing, Ohio.

For circular of choice Barred Plymouth Rocks and eggs. A fine lot of cockerels and pullets to sell and eggs from ten choice yards. Mention Messenger when you write.

Barred Plymouth Rocks Black Minorcas,

Light Brahmas, R. C. B. Leghorns, and Partridge Cochins. High class stock. Circular free. A year's subscription to The Messenger with every order.

SOME FINE BIRDS NOW FOR SALE

At a reasonable figure. I am prepared to prove to you that my stock is as good as can be bought anywhere for the same money.

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POULTRY BREEDERS! Send 50 cts for a 20-page monthly devoted to Poultry, etc. Sample copy six cents.

MICHIGAN POULTRY BREEDER,
Battle Creek, Michigan,

Black Langshans !

I will have some good stock for sale in the fall. Write for what you want.

G. H. GRANDSTAFF, Aurelia, Iowa.



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Until you have given the PALACE A 30 day trial.

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Send for full line of samples, catalogue and measurement blanks, with tape measure Free. THE PROGRESS TAILORING CO., MENTION DEPT. 11, MEDINAH TEMPLE, CHICAGO.

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in one yard of Lt. Brahmas, 10 hens and one cock for \$12.00.

A. C. DILLER, Marshalltown, Iowa.

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BROWN Leghorns

At Reduced Prices.

Eggs \$1.00 per 15

For balance of the season. If a fair hatch is not obtained will duplicate the order at half price. They are from

High Scoring

and Prize Winning Stock.

Fowls FOR Sale

At One Dollar Each.

BULL TERRIERS

AT HALF THEIR VALUE.

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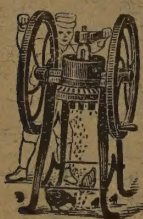
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the hens lay when
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Will pay for itself in a short time in the increase of eggs.



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Catalogue free if you mention this paper.

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MILFORD, MASS.



Nonpareil Poultry Yards, La Salle, Illinois.

J. A. WEERTS, PROP.

Breeder of

ROSE-COMB
BROWN

LEGHORNS,

SINGLE AND ROSE
COMB BLACK

MINORCAS.

Stock for sale with score cards. Let me know what you are in need of. I am prepared to prove to you that my birds are the equal of anything on the market. I will have eggs for sale during the hatching season at a reasonable price.

O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Ind.

BREEDS AMERICA'S FAVORITE,

The Barred Plymouth Rock,

"Zebra," "Royal blue" and "Ringlet" strains, carefully selected and mated each season. Every bird is large and fine yellow legs and beak, typical in form, showing that circular barring that is so much admired.

My famous strain of Brown Leghorns are noted for nice five point combs, smooth white ear-lobes, beauty of form, good size and great egg production.

My Buff Leghorns are Arnold's strain, and are buff all over down to the skin. They are large, have good Leghorn symmetry, and are good in other points. Eggs from above varieties \$2 for 15; \$3.50 for 30.

My Red Pile Leghorns are direct from the originator's stock. No more beautiful combination of colors can be found on any fowl. Imagine a male bird with a rich crimson back, wings a combination of deep red, white and chestnut red, tail pure white; female pure white except breast which is chestnut red and neck a lemon yellow striped with white. Eggs \$3 for 13. Send for circular.

Fairview Poultry Yards. J. L. STROSNIDER, Proprietor, New Lexington, O.

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Of All Leading Varieties

OF PURE BRED POULTRY.

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BROODERS,
EXHIBITION and
SHIPPING COOPS

Stock is farm raised and healthy, and satisfaction is assured in every sale. Write for description and prices. Box 82.

White Plymouth Rocks. ALFRED ANDRAE, Aurelia, Iowa. CHOICE STOCK

I breed White Plymouth Rocks exclusively, and have bred them for a good many years. The breeding pen from which I am offering eggs for sale this season is headed by a 93½ point cockerel, and he is mated to a choice lot of high coring hens and pullets. You will not find any better stock than mine at the same price. Eggs \$1.50 per sitting of 13.



170 First Premiums.

Used by the Largest Breeders Exclusively.

Do not buy until you send for our 160-page Illustrated Catalogue.

All Machines Warranted.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO., Homer City, Pa.

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Early Culling.

If a person has had experience with the breed which he is keeping he should be able to cull out pretty nearly all the objectionable specimens by the time they are three months old. There will be defects which will not show until the bird approaches maturity, such as faulty comb or earlobe, but imperfections of plumage or shape will usually become sufficiently apparent to the eye of the skilled breeder at three months to enable him to proceed with safety to the separation of the good from the bad.

There is good money in knowing how to cull early. It is something that has to be learned by study and close observation; but when one has become expert at the work he has obtained an advantage which is well worth striving for. When one's aim is to rear high scoring poultry the sooner he can get rid of the culls the better. We care not how he is situated, he needs all the space and time at his disposal for the stock which gives promise of making something better of itself than what is required for market poultry. And even when it is desired to get the most out of it when disposed of in the manner last named, the returns will be equally as good at this age as at six or eight months, provided the hatching has been done in season, and the owner is careful in the selection of a market. In the fall the supply of young poultry is usually in excess of the demand, and the low prices at that period have converted legions of unfortunates to the belief that the poultry business is a delusion and a fraud.

It is a lack of confidence in themselves that leads breeders to keep a lot imperfect specimens on hand long after their worthlessness should have become plain to the sight. While sensible of their faults, it is hoped that these faults will become less conspicuous as the birds increase in age, or will be offset by excellencies which will become vis-

ible at a later period. It is a part of the business of the breeder to find out what kind of defects are past remedy, what may partly or wholly disappear as the specimen nears maturity, and, to the fullest possible extent, train himself to discern in the undeveloped chick signs which mark him as a promising candidate for the show room.

Feather-Eating.

Chickens that are kept constantly busy are not apt to fall into the bad habit of feather-eating. Perhaps the reader has never had a flock which was given to this vice, and, therefore, is a stranger to the sight of the accomplishment in active operation. But if in the arrangement or equipment of his winter houses he makes no provision for compelling his fowls to take exercise in order to obtain their food, he will sometime learn all he wants to know about feather-eating without going away from home to see what it is like. He may have an example of it set before him even though the need of the exercise has been recognized and provided for, but the hazards are greatly multiplied by the absence of methods and attentions which gives encouragement to idleness. Fowls which are permitted to eat their fill from a trough or the bare floor are apt to fall into bad habits simply from the want of something to do, and when one of them sets the example of feather-eating, it is surprising how soon the whole flock will fall into the prevailing fashion. And after it has become well established you will not put a stop to it by any means which you will find it profitable to employ for that purpose.

Market the Late Hatches Early.

Chicks of the larger and medium sized breeds that are hatched this month should be given the very best attention with a view to obtaining the greatest possible growth by fall. They will sell

for something in October, but at best the something will be small if the sale is effected through the ordinary channels. The market at that time will be crowded with heavier and more saleable stock, and these undersized birds will be at a discount. The majority of buyers will believe that they can invest their money to better advantage in stock which is two or three months older. This has reference to the country markets such as most keepers of poultry find it to their convenience to patronize. Those living in the vicinity of large towns or cities may do considerably better with such stock by delivering direct to consumers who differ from the common run of buyers in preferring something of lighter weight.

But these late hatched birds should be marketed in some manner before winter. They will not be profitable as winter layers. The eggs which they will furnish will not pay for their feed from October to March. If they are choice stock hatched from eggs bought at the reduced price which is commonly made after the 1st of June, the intention of course, is not to sell them on the market, and what has been said in regard to late hatched stock does not apply to them; but late hatched and undersized stock which has nothing of this kind to give it value is best disposed of before cold weather. The poultry houses on the farms are often crowded in winter with an ill-assorted lot of old fowls and July and August hatched chicks. Such of these little birds as survive the winter come forth in the spring in a wretched state, and even if they were in a marketable condition, they would sell for but little if any more money than they would have brought in the fall. The keeping over of this class of birds is a common mistake and a constant loss to people who with wiser management could make their poultry pay them a profit. It is a mistake which well trained poultrymen don't commit.

Mating Buff Plymouth Rocks.

A breeder of Buff Plymouth Rocks who requests us to withhold his name for the reason that he does not wish to be considered an expert, writes to us as follows:

"I have met with the best success when I have selected females of the exact color that I desired in the offspring and mated them to a male a shade or two darker than themselves. When I have selected my females in this manner and mated them to a male of the same shade, the product has invariably been too light. I have in a way had good results from mating light colored females that were free from white in tail and wing to a deep colored male, though this must not be understood as a red or cinnamon colored male. From such a mating some fine birds will be obtained, but rather too large a proportion of them will be of an uneven color. About the worst plan which can be adopted is to unite the extremes—very light females with no undercolor to a dark red male. The outcome of this kind of a mating will be striped or mottled birds which nobody would regard fit for the breeding pen. I have reasons to believe that this plan has been tried by every breeder of the buffs in his early experience and abandoned after the first trial.

I want to say that it is a mystery to me how breeders of Buff Plymouth Rocks can offer to sell birds of the first class for \$2.50 apiece. I frequently see them advertised at that price, or even less. I have been breeding this variety for three years, and have introduced into my flock the best blood that money would buy. And yet fully one-half of my hatches are so faulty that I would consider it an imposition upon a patron to offer this part of them to him at any price. Out of fifty from which this half has been removed, I can count the first-class birds on the fingers of one hand, and I must have \$10.00 apiece for them or there is no money for me in the business. I have been a breeder of fullblood poultry for twenty years, and cannot believe that I am so much behind the average of breeders of equal experience in picking up the points of the business. I am, therefore, forced to conclude that the people who are anxious to make sales at the prices first named are breeding poultry simply for the fun of it, or else their idea of a

first-class Buff Plymouth Rock differs very materially from my own."

The Cheapest Lice-Killer.

Liquid lice-killers are very useful, but if you buy them ready made they are very expensive, and it is possible for the poultry breeder to get along without them. If one prefers them to other methods of fighting the lice, let him buy the formula and make the liquid in accordance with the directions given. If he is the owner of five-hundred fowls he can save enough money in that way in one season to build himself a new poultry house.

But there is a liquid lice-killer which we don't hear much about which will get away with the lice as effectively as anything in that line which can be used. And it don't cost a cent. Boiling hot water will kill the lice very dead. We use barrels of it every season in the poultry houses, and some years use nothing else in the buildings where the old fowls are quartered. And when we receive letters from people telling us that their poultry house is "alive with lice," and asking us how they must proceed to get rid of them, we have fallen into the habit of advising them to first drench every inch of the inside surface with boiling hot water. The best liquid lice-killer that was ever made is not "in it" as compared to a dose of this kind for the immediate destruction of the greater part of the swarm of vermin. Nothing escapes which it touches. After the water has been applied the lice-killers will come into play for preventing the lice from again getting a start in the premises.

When the family washing has been done it is not much of a task to set the water back on the stove and heat it up to the boiling point. This water, which would otherwise go to waste, will suffice for the treatment of one poultry house, and the process can be repeated the next week with another house, and so on until all have been gone over in turn. This is a quick and effective method of clearing the poultry house of lice. We cannot understand why it is not more often recommended.

Feeding Meat.

At the village meat markets scraps of waste meat can be bought at this time of year at from two and a half to

four cents a pound. We are sure that we have found it profitable to pay this much for these scraps for our growing stock. A pound to twenty-five one-third grown chicks three times a week will have a noticeable effect upon their growth and development. We cook the meat before feeding, having met with results when it was fed raw which have made us distrustful of the use of it in that state.

Reducing Overfat Hens.

The reader is entitled to his own opinion as to whether it is possible for hens to become too fat to be profitable layers. Whatever may be his views upon this point we shall have no argument with him on the subject. We shall simply say that when our flocks are all yarded and housed for the business of the winter we stand in greater fear of overfat hens than we do of the roup in cold weather or the cholera in summer. We cannot get eggs from fat hens, and we cannot afford to feed and house hens during the five or six months of winter and get no returns from them. If there are others who can obtain a steady flow of eggs regardless of this condition they can do something which we cannot do, and it is no part of our mission to try to argue them out of methods which they can reasonably claim are an improvement upon our own.

But in spite of every care the hens will sometimes become too fat to suit the person who has a dread of fat hens, and it becomes an important question how they can best be reduced down to a desirable condition. We do not like the plan of withholding all food for a couple of days or more, as is sometimes advised. The desired end can be attained without hazarding the bad effects of such a sudden and radical change. If the hens are given a spoonful of perfectly lean meat every day and deprived of all grain save a small quantity of millet seed in a well littered scratching pen, in ten days they will begin to show evidence of a return to a laying condition, and cautious additions to the ration will soon bring about the wished for result. The meat sustains the strength of the hen, and leaves her in a better plight for resuming her duties when the object has been accomplished than if the fat had been done away with by means of the starving process.

Bad for Buyers of Eggs.

When a farmer, a plain, honest, every-day sort of a farmer, who does not pretend to give special attention to poultry culture, brings to the village store sixty dozen eggs on a fine summers day, there is good ground for the inference that a large part of those eggs will create a panic in somebody's kitchen. The eggs should be marketed once a week at the very least. We should not care to eat eggs a week old in the heat of summer without knowing in what sort of a place they had been kept from the day that they were laid; but those who depend upon store eggs would probably be glad to compromise on eggs a week old if they could be fully assured of having nothing put on to them of greater age. When the farmer who brought in the sixty dozen eggs was asked by the writer how many hens he had he replied that he had about two hundred, including those that were setting and running with broods.

The farmer who obtained that sixty dozen eggs from his two hundred hens was all of two weeks in collecting them, or else he found some well filled nests containing eggs which he could not have been persuaded to break inside of his own house. Of course he didn't know for a certainty that there was anything wrong with any of these eggs, and he took especial pains to avoid finding out the fact.

There is a good deal of fraud practiced in the sale of eggs by people who would feel insulted at the hint that they were capable of fraud in anything. There is really no excuse for offering eggs for sale about the freshness of which there is a particle of doubt. People who are as honest as they ought to be will know that they are fresh.

Keepers of One Breed.

Buyers of the highest grade of pure-bred poultry are becoming more and more set in the belief that the man who keeps but one breed is the safest person to patronize. This is not saying that the breeder of two or more varieties cannot be trusted to furnish first-class stock, or that he who keeps but one breed can always be depended upon to give a better account of himself than he who keeps a dozen. The character of the individual will in a great measure determine the result whether

he keeps many breeds or few. Some men will keep five or six breeds with more success than others will one. Many people who take great pains to let it be known that they keep but one breed are constantly advertising the fact that they owe it as a duty to the world to give up keeping any at all. But the belief is gaining ground that a capable poultryman who devotes all his time to one breed has better opportunities for bringing it up to a high standard, and will produce it in better form, than if the variety was one of several between which he was dividing his attention. The evidence of a growing belief of this kind seems to us to be conclusive. The large poultry farms where it was the aim to keep the greater part, if not all breeds of fullblood poultry, are on the decrease. Considered in connection with the additions which have been made to the ranks of poultry keepers during the last decade, they are not nearly so numerous now as they were previous to the beginning of this period.

There is a widespread belief that the best class of poultry is not produced on these farms—that the very best is in the hands of people who place themselves in the most favorable position for producing the best. Other things being equal, it can be produced at its best only when it becomes the object of special study on the part of the owner, and the concentration of all his labors. We hear this kind of talk everywhere in our association with poultrymen. It seems to indicate to us a rapid growth of opinion favorable to those who confine themselves to one breed, and conveys a warning to those who are careless about heeding the "signs of the times." The most capable breeder can find ample exercise for all his powers in the improvement of one breed or variety, and the day is coming when this will be so generally accepted as a fact that breeders of this class will get the lion's share of the business.

Have It Ready.

There need be nothing elaborate about the winter poultry house. The best poultry house is a very simple affair, something which it does not require an expert knowledge of the carpenter's trade to build. The poultryman who cannot build his own poultry houses is sadly lacking in mechan-

cal ingenuity. But a poultry house in this northern country, while it need not be showy, must be substantially built, warm and well lighted. It takes time to build it as it should be, and that is just what's the matter with a large proportion of the poultry houses. The owners did not allow themselves time enough to build them right. They put off making a beginning until the frosty nights warned them that there was immediate need of the poultry house, and then it was hurried forward on the "lick and a promise" principle. Other duties demanded attention and stopped work on it before it was quite completed, and winter was at hand before the building was in a condition to give proper shelter to the fowls. The owner might have been found in the house in December with half frozen fingers putting on the "finishing touches," while the wreck of a fine flock of pullets sadly stood around and upbraided him for his lack of foresight and good management.

If a new poultry house has become a necessity, decide upon the plan and location and begin work upon it early. Don't take any chances on not having it ready when it shall be needed. It's miserably poor business to take all the trouble and care of a flock of poultry from early spring till fall, and then allow them to be completely ruined just when they are getting ready to square the debt they owe you for the attentions which you have given them.

Two for the Price of One.

We will send The Messenger and either of the following journals to any address for 50 cents. The regular subscription price of all the papers in the list is 50 cents. You get The Messenger for nothing,

The Reliable Poultry Journal.
The Poultry Tribune. (Freeport, Ill.)
The Poultry Herald.
The Western Poultry Journal.
The Feathered Realm.
The Michigan Poultry Breeder.
American Poultry Journal.
Inter-State Poultryman.
The Poultry-Keeper.
The California Poultry Tribune.

The Light Brahma is at its best for market purposes just as it reaches its maturity. Its size and fine appearance at that time, together with the excellent quality of its flesh, has given the Light Brahma first place among the various breeds of chickens as a roaster.

A Plague of Culls.

The "off" specimens will show up in every brood. There will be fewer of them in the case of the old breeds of solid color, like the Black Langshans, but even the breeders of the best strains of Black Langshans frequently become the owners of chicks which they would be glad to have out of sight when a prospective customer drops in for the purpose of inspecting the flocks. The culls will intrude themselves upon your sight in spite of all that you can do. You can "breed in line" year after year, but you can't get all the lines to run together to save you. Some of them will get queerly tangled, and make you stare and wonder, and even cause you to have doubts at times as to your being sure of just where you are "at."

It occasionally happens that the off specimens bunch themselves in a setting of eggs which is sent to a customer a hundred miles away, and when the chicks put in an appearance the seller hears a wail that starts a creepy feeling up his back and makes his hair stand on end. An instance of this kind has just come to the knowledge of the writer. A breeder who has as fine a flock of Buff Cochins as we ever saw, whose birds never fail to take high rank at every show where they are put on exhibition, received a letter from a friend to whom he had sold a setting of eggs that was a stunner. The letter says: "They are simply the worst lot of young Buff Cochins that I ever saw. There is one cockerel that bids fair to be a grand specimen, but the others are simply yellow chickens of a very mean type. Respectable Buff Cochins would consider it a disgrace to have them claim relationship to them. Were I not personally acquainted with you and your birds I would feel dead sure that I had been 'faked' in the very worst way. As it is I can only account for it on the theory that the germs of all the culls on your place got tucked inside of that sitting of eggs."

As we said before, the flock from which these eggs came is an exceedingly fine one. We know this to be a fact, and the buyer of the eggs knows it. The owner is an intelligent and experienced breeder, and the young stock that is at present running about his place shows it. Some of them are shabby specimens, to be sure, but the per cent of good birds is up to the usual av-

erage. How such a large proportion of culls happened to get together in that one setting of eggs is something which the seller of the eggs cannot explain. It is simply one of the curious things which admits of no explanation.

Fresh Water.

Fowls will consume a considerable quantity of fresh water in the course of a summer's day, and they want it fresh and cool. The drinking vessels should be emptied and refilled two or three times in the course of the day, and should be kept in the shade. It will be noticed that the birds will nearly all come to the vessel for a drink immediately after it has been refilled. It may have been half full of water before, but being warm and stale they would not make use of it except as a necessity. One may not always be able to supply the young stock with the variety of food best suited for the promotion of health and growth. He may lack the means at times to buy it, or there may be a temporary scarcity of some item which makes it impossible to obtain it at a price which can be afforded. But there can be no excuse for failing to keep a supply of fresh water on hand. The absence of fresh water is always proof of laziness on the part of the owner, and it is laziness which is very often fitly punished.

The Summer Dust Bath.

Spade up a small square of ground in the yard adjoining each poultry house, and when it becomes packed after a rain loosen it up again. This is nature's lice-killer, and you do not need to instruct the fowls how to use it. If the young stock is running on a sod it will be well to furnish them with a similar dusting spot along the fence or some other place where it can be prepared without disturbing the surface of the grass plat. Make it easy for the flocks to help you fight the lice, the enemy most to be feared in summer.

Express Companies Should Know Better.

Express companies demand enough pay for carrying valuable birds for poultrymen to do the work right. If they don't know that it is not the correct thing to expose exhibition Minorcas to a freezing temperature, a few doses like that administered by Mr. Christie

will improve their knowledge and do them good. There is no disposition on the part of poultrymen to exact what is unreasonable of the express companies, but these people are pretty unanimous in demanding that they shall fairly and properly do the things that they accept pay for.

A Breeder for 33 Years.

The Poultry-Keeper, after quoting a paragraph from the March number of this paper referring to the length of time that John Bennett, of Sunman, Indiana, has been a breeder of Black Spanish, adds:

"We will add that Mr. Bennett has stuck to the Black Spanish and he is considered 'headquarters' for that breed by breeders over the whole country. No man has had as long experience with Black Spanish as he, and 'Uncle John,' as the young breeders style him, is noted for his honesty and willingness to do what he can for others. May he breed them thirty-three years more is our wish."

Eggs for Sale

Black Minorcas and Cornish Indians

Exclusively.

If you want first-class stock please write. A postal card will do.

C. C. OSTERHOLD,
919 Chestnut St. Quincy, Illinois.

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Containing 140 pages of practical information on poultry raising, with 1 years subscription to the WESTERN POULTRY REVIEW, a 16 to 24 page paper devoted to all branches of poultry industry, only 25 cents, 4 months trial 10c. Sample free. Cheapest and best advertising medium. Send 25 cts (silver) and get book and paper one year.

Western Poultry Review, Shannon City, Ia.



G. W. TOYNE

Glidden, Iowa.

Breeder and

Mater of

SILVER-LACED

WYANDOTTES,

Only.

Eggs \$1 for 15.

Birds for Sale.

REWARD!

The Publishers of

Feathered Realm

Offer \$12 worth of space each month for articles. The only paper of its kind in western Pennsylvania. Send for samples.

ENTERPRISE PUBLISHING CO.

Cambridgeboro, Penn.

How Much Capital?

"How much capital shall I need to make a start in the poultry business?" This is the question which experienced poultry breeders are asked dozens of times a year. The people who ask the question are of the opinion that if they only have capital to start with the rest of it will all be smooth sailing. Let them once get nicely started and the thing is bound to go.

Now capital is a good thing for a person to have who wants to engage in the poultry business provided he knows how to use. If he understands the management of poultry, and can invest his money intelligently, it will be a help to him to have a lot of it on hand, as it will enable him to engage in business in a more extensive way, and enlarge the volume of his profits. But if he has no practical knowledge of poultry keeping and wants to make a beginning in that direction, he had better make his start in a way in which the question of capital cuts a very small figure.

We venture to say that ninety-nine out a hundred of the people who have made a conspicuous success of poultry keeping did not have any capital to start with, unless ten or a dozen hens and a very common sort of a poultry house can be dignified by that name. We will go farther and say that if the majority of them had had more capital they would have made a failure of the business and abandoned it in disgust after seeing their capital sink out of sight. The people who are not cramped for the want of capital when they make their first attempt at poultry keeping generally make a flat failure of it.

If a person has a desire to try his hand at the poultry business the proper way for him to do is to begin at the beginning. He can earn enough at any kind of days labor in a month to give him a start. This is capital enough. It will enable him to buy a dozen hens and fit up a place in which to keep them. When he has become the possessor of a hundred hens and been able to provide them with buildings out of the profits derived from the first twelve, he will not need to ask anybody how much capital he will require to set himself up in the poultry business. He will know better than anybody can tell him just what he needs.

Shall They Be "Broken Up?"

At this time of year the broody hens are liable to become a nuisance. The nesting boxes in the poultry houses are full of them, and the clucking crowd is no small aggravation to the owner while engaged in his daily work about the buildings. The most of these hens have this season hatched out one brood and reared it to the weaning age. If they were given eggs now the chicks would not appear until August, and few people want chicks hatched at that time. What's to be done with these broody hens? If they are allowed to occupy the nests in the poultry houses they will breed lice faster than the owner can by any possibility destroy them. Since the hens have reared one brood we cannot believe that they are seriously in need of the rest that we are often told is so necessary to them in summer. We do not believe they will lay any the less eggs the coming winter as a consequence of being broken of their broodiness now. At any rate we are willing to take the chances rather than suffer the annoyance of such a protesting, savage crowd for the balance of the season.

Changing the hens to quarters which are new to them will generally cure them of their broodiness in a few days. The presence of a lively male bird or two will facilitate matters. This plan is attended with less trouble than the preparation of a coop with a slatted bottom, and will usually effect the purpose just as well. Ducking the hens in cold water, and other cruel practices of a similar nature, we are willing to believe, are no longer followed to an extent which makes their denouncement at all necessary.

Meat Not a Luxury.

Whatever the ration one may be giving his yarded hens, it is not complete unless it includes cut bone or meat in some form. Meat is too commonly looked upon as an extra item of expense—somewhat in the light of a luxury which can just as well as not be dispensed with. Considered in connection with the results, meat is the cheapest food which can be given the flock. It pays better than any other feeding material. This is a fact which no one will dispute who has submitted the matter to a test. It is not only important, but is essential to the most perfect condition of

health and the greatest productiveness on the part of the hens.

Market the Old Hens.

The hens which it is the intention to market had better be sent away at once. They will be in the midst of the moult in a month from now, and their appearance will be against them when put on sale. And then there will be an abundance of young stock on the market at that time, and most buyers will prefer it to the old hens. The sooner the hens that have outlived their usefulness are made to go the better.

WELCH'S Single-Comb BROWN LEGHORNS

Are fine as the finest. Stock for show and breeding purposes for sale at reasonable prices. Eggs \$1.50 per 15; \$2.75 per 30. Orders booked now for spring delivery. Address

Wolverine Poultry Yard,
Jas. C. Welch, Prop. Lansing, Mich.

WHITE WYANDOTTE

Eggs. Two dollars per fifteen from two pens headed by \$15.00 Forsyth cock and \$10.00 Mack, Vt., cockerel, with 94 to 95½ hens and pullets. Fertility and chicks guaranteed. Warren B. Davis, Sutherland, Iowa.

BUFF Plymouth ROCKS.

Stock for Sale.

A. L. BELEW, Aurelia, Iowa.

Chicago and Detroit, 1897.

BUFF LEGHORN WINNERS.

I want every person interested in this popular and beautiful breed to send for our large 8-page '97 circular, free, stamp accepted. I have one of the finest flocks in America. Prize winners for six years. Get my circular sure.

GEO. S. BARNES,
Battle Creek, Michigan.



What Have You Saved?

There are people who pride themselves upon their good luck in hatching out the chicks, both in the natural way and by means of incubators, who are not a success at rearing them. They like to tell others how they nearly always get from ten to thirteen chicks from thirteen eggs, and express sympathy for those who confess that seven chicks from the same number of eggs is about the best that they can do on the average.

But the people who are so remarkably successful in their hatches are not always able to show so good a record in rearing the chicks which it has been so easy for them to bring into existence. They will tell you, for instance, that they have 200 chicks out of the shell by the middle of April, and, as they do not believe in late chicks, have discontinued hatching operations for the season. Visit their premises in August and you will wonder what has become of the 200 chicks, and on entering into conversation with the owner you will find that he is in the same fix. He too is wondering what has become of his 200 chicks, for the half or more of them has disappeared in a manner wholly unaccountable to him.

There are people who are so constituted that they can do first-class work of any kind when they set themselves to it, but their weakness is in not being able to keep steadily at it. They work under high pressure while they are working, but invariably lose interest in any task requiring prolonged effort before it is completed. People of this make up, in bobbing about from one thing to another, sometimes dive into the poultry business with their customary rush and enthusiasm. It's a captivating business, especially to people of this turn of mind. It figures up beautifully on paper, and promises silver and gold in great chunks to those who get right down to business and work the field for what it is worth. These people are naturally quick-witted and smart. They study hard and learn fast while the fever is on them, and work like trogons while their enthusiasm lasts. But enthusiasm don't last. Like the oil in a lamp, it soon burns itself away, and then the flame goes out. It acts as a motive power to tremendous exertion for a brief period,

but is not the kind of force needed to sustain steady and long continued effort.

People who make due preparation for the hatching season and give close attention to their duties, are likely to be rewarded with good hatches. If one has a lively interest in his work at that time he will attend to it closely. And this is why people such as we have been talking about outdo their neighbors in bringing out the chicks in early spring. Their enthusiasm is running at high tide, and they are keenly on the alert to every duty which will assist in attaining the object then most in mind. But as the summer advances their interest in their poultry is superceded by some new fancy, the spell is broken, and the young stock is left to make its way in the world on the "root hog or die" principle. As a consequence, a large proportion of them die, and the owner, in his deep absorption in some later project, is too indifferent to the fate of the chickens to find out where they die or how. The next season, having run the circuit of his changing fancies, he is back on his old hobby. He gathers up the remnant of his flock, puts his house in order and again sets forth under a full head of steam. We take it for granted that every reader of The Messenger knows the man who runs his poultry business in this way. The writer is acquainted with several of him.

Stability, steadiness of purpose, "stick-to-it-tive-ness," are qualities without which there is no real success in poultry keeping. The number of chicks which you have hatched out cuts no figure. What have you saved?

They May Not Be Dead.

If after a heavy shower several young birds are found lying outside of the coops limp and apparently lifeless, gather them up, wrap in a woolen cloth, and place beneath the kitchen stove. Chicks that have every appearance of being dead can often in this manner be resuscitated, and in a few hours will be running about seeming none the worse for the drenching.

Incubators as Premiums.

In the July number of the well known Reliable Poultry Journal, published at Quincy, Ill., the enterprising publishers offer as premiums to club raisers twelve 200-egg size Incubators of the

best make on the market, including the Challenge, Greenleaf, Illinois, Monitor, Prairie State, Peerless, Pineland, Palace, Reliable, Successful, Victor and Globe. Sample copy of Reliable Poultry Journal, containing full explanation, sent free to any address. Here is an opportunity to get the incubator of YOUR CHOICE without a cash outlay. Write today.

CHOICE Barred Ply. Rocks.

If you want eggs from good birds scoring from 90 to 92 points, write Mrs. Silas Cobbs, Marathon, Iowa. Box 303.

Golden Wyandottes Golden Seabright Bantams.

A 92 point cock by Shellabarger heads our pen of Wyandottes. Entered two pairs at Anoka, Minn.,—Felch, judge—and won 2nd cockerel 90, 2nd pullet 92½, 3rd pullet 89½. Entered four Seabrights and won 1st hen 94½, 3rd hen 92½, 1st pullet 92½, 2nd pullet 91½. At St. Paul, Minn.,—Sharp Butterfield, judge—won on 12 entries 1st cock 92, 1st cockerel 93½, 1st hen 94, 2nd hen 93, 3rd hen 93, 1st pullet 94, 1st pen 187, second pen 183.

Stock for sale. Eggs \$2 for one, or \$3.50 for two settings. A year's subscription to the Poultry Messenger with every order.

J. J. BEAN. Abbottsford, Wisconsin.

Rutherford Broth's,

AURELIA, IOWA.

Eggs
FROM
R. C. B. Leghorns,
Buff Leghorns,
White Wonders,
Golden Wyandottes,
Pekin Ducks,
Toulouse Geese.

Brown Leghorns, per setting of 13,	\$1.00
White Wonders " "	2.00
Golden Wyandottes, " "	1.50
Buff Leghorns, " "	1.50
Pekin Ducks, 3 settings for	2.00
Toulouse Geese, per setting of 7,	2.00

Two years ago we bought a first prize pen of Pekin Ducks, and our present flock is made up of this purchase and their progeny.



Poultry, Farm, Garden, Cemetery,
Lawn, Railroad and Rabbit
Fencing.

Thousands of miles in use. Catalogue Free.
Freight Paid. Prices Low.

The McMULLEN WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO.
114, 116, 118 and 120 N. Market St., CHICAGO, ILL.

The Farmer's Poultry.

The general run of farmers cannot become expert poultrymen. They have too many other pressing duties on hand to permit them to give the special study to this kind of work which would fit them for poultry culture in a scientific way. But poultry keeping as commonly pursued on the farms can be improved upon to an extent which would more than double the returns without making it necessary for farmers to master all the secrets of the business. Farmers should understand how to get eggs in winter. They usually have a household of fowls at that time which are making little or no return for their feed. It is true that the feed is not accounted of much value, as a large part of it consists of what they pick up in places where it would otherwise go to waste. But it would come handy to most farmers in mid-winter to be able to market say five dollars worth of eggs every week, and this is something that every farmer can learn how to do, and it won't take him long to learn how to do it either.

The first lesson the farmer has got to learn is that he must not allow his hens to run at large and "pick up" their living in winter. So long as he does this he will not be a success as a producer of winter eggs. He had better let the feed which is lying around loose go entirely to waste rather than be utilized in that manner. The hens must be under control where they can be limited to the proper kind of food in proper amount. They must be kept comfortable and guarded from exposure both during the day and at night. They must have warm houses, and these houses must be furnished with yards to prevent them from straying away from their quarters. The yards need not be large. If they inclose twice the space occupied by the poultry house they will do. Their only object is to afford the flock a little outdoor exercise on pleasant days. Laying hens do not need a range in winter. Poultry netting is cheap, and it is just no job at all to string it up on posts. Every farmer has a poultry house of some pattern. If it is not warm enough, a few hours work will in most cases make it so, and when furnished with a yard such as we have described, he is already for the winter, presuming, of course, that he is the possessor of hens which under proper

treatment can be brought into a laying condition. He can get a poultry paper for twenty-five or fifty cents from which he can learn how to make them lay, or any experienced poultry keeper will tell him the secret for nothing. The farmer takes no chances in the matter; the hens can be made to lay, and he can train himself to be the instrument for bringing about this result with certainty. It is worth the while of farmers, particularly of small farmers whose land barely suffices to give them a support, to learn this much about poultry culture.

A Question of Duty.

The man who wants to buy a cockerel, and wants it faultless in comb, eye, legs, and, in fact, in every section, and wants it all for a dollar, will soon be writing to you. It makes you very tired to engage in a correspondence with an unthinking person of this kind, and the longer you keep it up the more weary you will become. If you write a courteous note explaining that you cannot sell a bird closely approaching the description which has been given, for that amount of money, you are apt to receive a rude letter in return saying that the writer is acquainted with a score of breeders who have as good birds as your own, and all they ask for them is a dollar apiece. You will be in luck if you are not informed that you are not above swindling, but that your sharp practices will not do you any good in this case, as you have met with a customer who is on to your tricks.

We are strongly of the opinion that the proper way to treat a person of this description is to pay no attention whatever to his letters. Progressive poultrymen make it a rule to reply to every communication; but it seems to us that this rule too should have its exceptions. The duty of a busy poultry breeder to the public at large does not impose an obligation upon him to waste his time in writing unprofitable letters to the simpletons who think they ought to be able to buy his best birds for a dollar.

When to Buy an Incubator.

If one has decided to buy an incubator with which to do the hatching next season, the time for him to begin making his arrangements for the purchase

is the latter part of the summer before. He will need the price lists and descriptive catalogues of several incubator makers for examination and comparison. If he goes about the matter with deliberation, and exercises ordinary care and prudence, there will be no occasion for him getting a useless machine on his hands. The incubator should be in his possession by fall in order that he may make several experimental hatches, and thus become somewhat acquainted with the manner of working it. By far the larger proportion of incubators is bought in the spring when the buyers must set them immediately at work without any of the experience by which alone they can be run with the greatest degree of success. There would be less complaint about incubators if people would recognize the fact that there is something to learn in order to operate them satisfactorily, and would give themselves time enough to find out the secret of running them profitably.

Poultry Supplies Of every description
The best grade for
the least money. Illustrated catalogue free.
I. F. SCHOTT,
New Pittsburg, Wayne Co., Ohio.

Light Brahmas, Felch Strain.
Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Chicks hatched with hens in February, March, April and May; they are of mammoth size and have extra fine plumage. I will sell my surplus stock at prices that are right. No culls for sale at any price.

N. V. E. BALLARD, - Onawa, Iowa.

SINGLE COMB
WHITE Leghorn

White P. Rock and W. Wyandotte
Eggs. Fifteen for one dollar. Sixty for three dollars.

W. J. SHIELDS,
Harmon's Creek, Pa.

W. E. Dorland & Co.,
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Breeders of thoroughbred Silver Laced Wyandottes, Light Brahmas, Single Comb Brown Leghorns, Single Comb White Leghorns, Pekin Ducks and Bronze Turkeys. Fifteen varieties of land and water fowls. Prize winners from the famous Mansfield Poultry Yards. Catalogue free on application.

A Useful Implement.

A good straw cutter is an implement which we would not like to try to get along without. In summer green food for the flocks in the yards is highly important. If each poultry house, or division of the same, can be furnished with two yards, in order that one may be given to the use of the flock while the other is growing up to some green crop, the fowls can obtain what green food they require without other trouble on the part of the owner than the plowing of the ground and sowing of the crop; but while such an arrangement is very nice, it is not practicable with most of those who keep fowls. One good yard is all that can ordinarily be provided, and this will not be large enough to afford green food from the beginning to the last of the season. Grass must be carried to the flocks, and grass is not in proper condition for the fowls unless it is reduced to short lengths. A straw cutter which will cost less than five dollars will enable one to chop up a large quantity of it at the expense of a very little labor and time. There will be no temptation to stint the fowls with this kind of material where such an implement is at hand. The cutter will also be very convenient for preparing the material for the nesting boxes and the scratching pens.

Lawn Clippings.

The clippings of the lawn, particularly if they contain a large proportion of white clover, are worth saving. If carefully cured and put away in a dry place, they will be excellent for the laying hens next winter. When chopped fine and steamed the hens will show great relish for it, and their condition will be better for a daily feed of this kind. We don't hear so much about steamed clover as a winter feed as we did some years ago. Like most every other really good thing, it was overpraised when its virtues were first presented to public notice. Lots of people got the idea into their heads that it didn't much matter what was fed the hens, or what was left unfed, so long as they were plentifully supplied with clover. They had heard it said that clover is a complete ration, and this meant that nothing else was required. Any other food that might be given would serve as an agreeable change, but it

wasn't really necessary. The results, of course, did not justify this view, and cut clover has to a large extent fallen into disrepute. Poultry keepers are not so particular in laying by a store of it for winter use as they used to be. But clover, or, in fact, any of the grasses, cut at an early stage of growth and nicely cured, is an excellent thing to have on hand in winter, and will pay well for the trouble of storing up for that time of year.

Take the Hint.

Chickens, both old and young, abhor the fierce blazing heat of the sun. They will take shelter from its rays in anything which has a roof to it—a box or barrel or close shed, where they will stand with drooping wings and open mouths panting for breath. Outdoor shade is what they need, and he who fails to provide this will not have the best success with his poultry, no matter what else he may do for its health and comfort. Chickens are always under cover in the heat of the day, if they can find it. They do their feeding in the morning and evening, and lie in the shade several hours before and after the noon hour. The keeper of poultry who fails to be governed by this hint will in some way be the loser by it.

Mr. Wyckoff's Plan.

Mr. Wyckoff, of New York, the well-known White Leghorn breeder, keeps his fowls in flocks of fifty, and keeps in yards. Each pen contains four males. According to the common belief as to the best method of mating in order to secure fertile eggs, it would be supposed that Mr. Wyckoff's plan would be very unsatisfactory. And yet he declares that it has been attended with the best results of any that he has tried. He has experimented with small pens with a view to obtaining a greater proportion of fertile eggs. He has also tried changing the male in these yards on alternate days, but the result has been fewer fertile eggs proportionately than from the pens of fifty. He will hereafter follow the latter plan exclusively. This gentleman is in a very practical sense a successful poultryman. With nothing in the way of capital to begin with, he has worked up a yearly income of four thousand dollars from his fowls. His experience is, therefore, valuable.

Whether keeping one hog or a hundred, you should not miss reading a copy of "Blooded Stock," published at Londonderry, Pa. The June issue was about the best all around swine paper that ever came to our notice, was as useful to farmer as to the breeder of purebreds. We advise our readers to subscribe for it. Only 25 cents a year.

\$100 Reward \$200.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of Testimonials. Address

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O.
Sold by Druggists, 75c.
Hall's Family Pills are the best.

BUFF Plymouth Rocks,

S. C. W. Leghorns and Black Langshans. Fifty-one prizes won this season. Circular free. Prices right.
H. B. BOYER. - Morrison, Illinois.

Guaranteed FRESH

—And Fertile.

Buff Leghorns,
Barred Ply. Rocks,
Black Langshans.

My Langshans score from 92½ to 94½ by Emery, Hewes and Clarke; Leghorns 90½ to 93½. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. Sixty per cent hatch guaranteed, or order refilled free of charge.

M. PARROTT,
AURELIA, IOWA.

BLACK MINORCAS.

Rose Comb Brown Leghorns.
Barred Plymouth Rocks.

No better stock found anywhere. Eggs \$1.00 per 13. Satisfaction guaranteed.
W. H. PROTEXTER, Sheldon, Iowa.

Breeders' Cards.

GREAT BIG LIGHT BRAHMAS, eggs and stock for sale in season at hard times prices. Our stock will suit you. L. M. Rowe, Galva, Ia.

W. E. BEARD, De Witt, Iowa, breeder and mater of Silver Wyandottes—12th year. Stock and eggs for sale in season.

JAMES M. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Pa., Box 7, breeds all leading varieties of poultry. Eggs \$2 per 13. Fine catalogue free.

BLACK MINORCAS. Winners at two banner shows, Cleveland and Pittsburg, winning eight premiums and two specials on eight entries at Pittsburg show. Fine breeding cockerels at reasonable prices. Eggs in season. Write for circular. Robert Mairer, Akron, Ohio.

BARRED ROCKS exclusively. Cockerel from F. A. Gibson, West Alexander, Pa., score 92 points; pullets score 90 to 93½. Eggs from this pen \$1.50 per 15. A pen of choice unscorred nicely barred heavy boned hens mated with cockerel scoring 90 points. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. A. L. Manwell, Vinton, Iowa, box 783.

BANTAM'S AND PIGEON'S eggs per 13. African, Buff Pekin \$2; imported Black Red \$3. Pigeons, Swallows, Barbs, Pouters, Etc. A. H. Hughes, Springfield, Illinois.

LIGHT BRAHMAS, Black Javas, Rose Comb Brown Leghorns from high scoring birds. Eggs \$1.25 per 15. Geo. Hammetter, Sumner, Iowa.

IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC LANGSHANS, Black and White. E. A. R. Sure Roup Cure. A. H. Ascher, Princeton, Illinois.

WILLIS WHINERY, Salem, Ohio, breeder of 20 varieties of fullblood poultry. Eggs \$1 per 13; \$2 per 30. Write for what you want.

F. E. COLEMAN, Manchester Green, Conn., breeder of Barred Plymouth Rocks exclusively. Eggs for hatching \$1.25 per 13; \$2 per 26. Poultry Journal one year free with every order. Please mention The Messenger.

JOHN D. ROWLEY, Jorden, N. Y., breeder of the best Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes. Stock for sale. Eggs \$1 for 13.

D. E. TWINING, Kipton, Ohio, (Lorain County), breeder of high class poultry of leading varieties. Send for catalogue.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS, Cockerels \$1 each; pullets 75 cents; eggs 4 cents each. A. M. Chamberlain, Aurelia, Iowa.

English Red Caps, Silver Wyandottes, Eggs \$1.00 per setting. Satisfaction guaranteed. R. J. Holman, Proprietor Crystal River Poultry Yards, Parfreyville, Wisconsin.

FANCY RABBITS, Guinea Pigs and Pigeons, all varieties. Barred Ply. Rocks and Golden Seabright Bantams. Eggs 75 cents per 15. W. C. Hugunin, Spencer, Iowa.

W. C. B. POLISH, W. Frizzles for sale. Good stock. Eggs in season \$1 per setting. Segwum Poultry Farm, Lowell, Michigan.

\$25 IN PREMIUMS offered to those sending orders. Send 2 stamps for premium list and circular to Robert Hartwig, Hackney, Mo.

EGGS FROM HIGH-SCORING Barred Plymouth Rocks \$1.50 and \$2 per setting of 15. C. B. Wagner, Hiteman, Monroe co., Iowa.

S. C. B. LEGHORNS, exclusively. Eggs 15 for 50 cents. C. M. Saltzer, Nursery, Illinois.

CORNISH INDIAN GAME, Black Langshan and White Wyandotte eggs for sale from birds scoring from 90 to 94 points. Prices reasonable. H. E. Gerke, Quincy, Illinois.

W. E. DONAT, Maynard, Iowa, breeder of fullblood White Plymouth Rocks. Eggs \$1 per fifteen.

PARTRIDGE COCHINS exclusively. Pen is headed by LaCrosse's first prize cock, 98½ by Emery, E. E. Ross strain. Mated to high class females. Eggs \$2 per 13. J. O. Mills, Ashland, Wisconsin.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS, exclusively. Conger, Hawkins, Lawton's best strains. Write me before you buy. J. D. Stevenson, Killbuck, Ohio.

MRS. JASPER COON, Correctionville, Iowa, breeder of L. Brahmans, B. Langshans, Buff and White Cochins, W. P. Rocks and C. I. Games. Eggs in season.

VILLA PARK POULTRY YARDS, Black Minorcas and Buff Leghorns. Eggs reduced to \$1 per 13. Stock for sale at all times. Satisfaction guaranteed. Walter Harned, Trenton, New Jersey.

SCOTCH COLLIE puppies, bred from trained parents. High class poultry. E. E. Hoffer, Cresco, Indiana. Box 10.

EGGS FOR HATCHING from Houdans, Barred Plymouth Rocks, S. C. B. Leghorns, Game Bantams and Pekin Ducks. No more stock for sale until fall. Stamp for reply. E. and M. Hissong, Washington, Iowa.

Valuable Formula for 10 Cents.

Hooper's Lice Formula kills insect life with lightning dispatch, Rough on Lice, Mites, Bedbugs, Roaches, Fleas, Ants, etc.; exterminates with magical effect; cheap, harmless, easily applied, directions for making 10 cents, (stamps) circulars free. F. L. Hooper, box 8, Station D, Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Felch's Guarantee.

I. K. Felch makes a suggestion to the boy of twelve years which said boy will do well to ponder over. He says:

"If you will hatch and raise 25 chickens each year, winter 12 females and a male, and will follow my directions for thirty years, at forty-two you may have in bank or invested in a farm \$3,000, and at my age \$10,000 to leave to your children; and you can do it all before breakfast and after supper, and attend to all other necessary control of your business or your play."

The Hen as a Medicine Chest.

A French physician has invented a method by which he says iron can be given in large doses. Hens, he noticed, have powerful internal organs. They can digest considerable quantities of iron, and then render it back, through the albumen of their eggs, in a form which is easily digested by the weaker stomach of mankind. So he feeds his hens with what he calls "a very absorbent salt of iron," mingled with grains of wheat, and they lay eggs extremely rich in iron already digested.—Green's Fruit Grower.

Don't market the old, long spurred cocks in the same crate with the fat hens or spring chickens. It would be more profitable to kill them and bury the carcasses in the manure heap.

Publishers' Notes.

Ablert Mitzlaff, of Abbotsford; Wisconsin, writes: "I have a very fine lot of young Golden Wyandottes now on hand, though not as many of them as I could wish. My stock is the pure McKeen strain, and the chicks, which were mostly hatched previous to April 10th, are exceedingly well marked. I have fifty chicks for sale now which I am sure will please anybody who is a judge of good stock of this kind. I also have a one year old cock, a capital bird and an excellent breeder, that I will sell at a bargain, as I cannot use him another season."

G. A. C. Clarke, of LeMars, Ia., writes that he has five-hundred young chickens on his hand at present, and pities the man who has to look after a thousand.

R. O. Ackley, proprietor of Morning Side Poultry Yards, Sioux City, Iowa, assures us that business has been very good with him this season. He now has a fine lot of young Brahmans hatched in March, April and May which will be in fine condition for the fall and winter shows. He also has a choice lot of one and two year old hens which he will be obliged to dispose of even at a sacrifice in order to make room for the young stock.

The editor of The Messenger has recently seen a brood of Buff Plymouth Rocks hatched from a setting of eggs obtained last March from H. B. Boyer, Morrison, Illinois. The setting of fifteen eggs hatched out twelve chicks, all of which are living. The chicks are now nearly four months old, and are "showing their colors" in a manner which ought to please the most critical breeder of this popular variety. We are free to say, that taken as a whole, we never saw a better brood of Buff Plymouth Rocks, and we have had some experience which we believe has made us a reasonably good judge of the variety.

Why not try the Black Minorcas? There are no better egg producers, and they are very salable. W. H. Protexter, of Sheldon, Iowa, has a fine flock of Minorcas, and will be pleased to give you any information in regard to them that you may desire. If you are meditating a change of breed, and would like a correct statement of the good points of the Minorcas, write to him.

M. Parrott, Aurelia, Iowa, shipped Buff Leghorns as far west as Colorado the past season, and the shipment, of course, gave perfect satisfaction. Whatever Mr. Parrott ships will be right. He is that kind of a man. We know him well. He has a fine lot of Buff Leghorns coming on for the fall trade.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER, AND Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the 15th of every month by
The Messenger Company,
AURELIA, IOWA.

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year

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You can advertise in this paper without paying out a dime for the space. We can present to you a plan by which you can secure a half-inch or an inch of space for a year which will cost you nothing. No canvassing for subscriptions, or anything of that kind. You can do the whole thing in an hour, and there is nothing unpleasant about it. The plan is one which is particularly recommended to lady poultry keepers, but is available to anyone. Write for particulars.

The poultryman who in his business relations with others acts on the principle of making every transaction mutually beneficial—who keeps his eye not only on his own interests, but the interests of his patron as well, will never lack for patrons, if he has judgment, knowledge and industry in keeping with his good intentions.

Somehow or other the most of the bad luck falls to the lot of those who trust principally to luck in the management of their poultry. The people who place no dependence upon luck, but think, plan and labor, get most of the good luck, but they don't call it by that name.

The man who has fowls of the very best class can afford to rest easy in regard to the coming revision of the Standard. The committee having the matter in charge will not take any action which will have the effect of lowering the value of fowls of that kind. We say this in full knowledge of the fact that the standard makers have in times past been accused of being open to influences which have swayed them somewhat from the line of duty.

One who is subject to attacks of "the blues" is poorly fitted for making a living by means of poultry culture. So far as results are concerned, this affect-

tion is every whit as bad as the cholera

The Von Culin Incubator company has passed into the hands of a receiver. Last season this company made its advertising contracts payable the first of July, wherever it could induce publishers to accede to these conditions, claiming that as many of their machines were put out on trial, it could not get its business in shape to settle its bills before that time. As the company was looked upon as reliable it succeeded in making numerous contracts on this basis. When these bills became due and were presented, the duped publishers were notified that the concern had passed into the hands of a receiver on the third of the month. The Von Culins are evidently far-seeing fellows.

If things go wrong in the poultry yard, it is a good deal better to spend your time in trying to find a remedy for the trouble than an excuse for it. The remedy can always be found if one looks for it close enough and long enough

A hen may now and then be found that will lay eggs until she is ten years old. But ten-year-old hens, nor five-year-old hens, are not what level headed poultrymen are looking for as layers. The people who "stick up" for the old hens, and insist that they are just as good layers as younger ones, will be allowed a monopoly in that line without any protest from the great majority of breeders who are keeping hens for profit.

Perhaps Mr. Hunter has heard of a new poultry paper in England, and has gone over there for the express purpose of "squelching" it. The striking success which has attended his efforts in that line at home, would naturally be an encouragement to him to try his

hand at the same kind of dirty work abroad.

If a man has made a failure of about everything he has ever tried, and has a small remnant of capital left with which he is thinking of setting himself up in the poultry business, he had better take it and invest it in a saw-mill instead. A saw-mill is commonly looked upon as the handiest thing on earth for putting out of sight the money of a person who is not familiar with the secrets of the trade. But poultry keeping will beat the saw-mill out of sight when it has a chance to get in its work on a fellow of this description.

However promising the chicks may be at present, none of them will be entirely free from defects when the time comes for offering them for sale. You know this, and the people who buy them ought to know it. If anyone feels aggrieved because you send him a bird that is not faultless in every section, you cannot afford to waste your time in trying to help him recover his good humor. When you have shipped at a fair price a bird scoring well up in the nineties, and get a complaining or insulting letter from the buyer on account of some minor defect of the eye, or comb, or leg, it is best to pass it by in silence, unless you are sure that you are equal to the demands of the occasion, and can write a letter which will do justice to the subject.

We are receiving many subscriptions on our proposition to furnish The Messenger and the Thrice-A-Week New York World one year for a dollar. This edition of the World has six pages, and is the next thing to a daily. In amount of reading matter one number is equal to two of the average western daily. The subscriber gets all the news of the world three times a week for a dollar, and The Messenger thrown in.





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CHICKS

Reliable Incubator & Brooder Co., Quincy, Ills.

Among the Exchanges.

Kill and Feed.

You may notice in every flock of chicks some that are puny and of inferior size. They occupy room and eat feed that were better appropriated by the promising ones. It may seem a trifle cruel, but it will be better for the flock and your purse if you decapitate the scrubs, skin them, chop them up into little bits and feed them to the forthcoming prize-winners. When from one to two months of age is the best time to do this. Better to raise a few birds and have them thrifty, lusty fellows—all looking alike—than many and have the appearance of the flock injured by inferior specimens and your feed grow low quickly. The scrub never pays for its feed; it never can become an exhibition bird: it will never be fit to breed from: it is ever an "eye-sore" to the beholder and owner. Having destroyed every bird that shows inferiority you will be surprised by the interest you formerly had becoming more intense. You will be pleased to see how fast the remaining birds develop and assume fine feather and form. Your work will be lessened and your enjoyment increased.—California Poultry Tribune.

Overcrowding.

Many are the evils that are to be traced to overcrowded flocks. Many are the advantages gained in small families. When flocks are too large, and the poultry quartered in runs, one of the first troubles to meet is feather-pulling; then comes egg-eating. Then there are minor troubles like fighting and crowding around the feed and water troughs, bullies picking the cowards; the strong crowding out the weak. Need we also add the diseases which can almost be directly traced to overcrowded quarters? Anaemia, lice, cholera, are three scourges to the poultry yard, and they are almost directly traceable to large flocks in small houses. In small families we can maintain better health, and we secure thereby a better egg yield. Poultry for profit must be kept on practical lines. We must have strong, hardy stock, or we cannot secure the egg yield, and that fertility which alone will give us the good results.—Iowa Homestead.

About Molting.

The majority of persons have no patience with a molting hen; they think she ought to lay when she is molting, but if they will reflect a little they will conclude that nature is economical in her workings, and does not devolve upon her creatures the fulfillment of more than one task at a time. * * * Although the hen becomes, as a rule, rather fat while molting, this is due to the fact that, when her food is assimilated, the feathers require for manufacture nearly all of the lime, phosphoric acid and

nitrogen that are contained in the food, but require very little carbon. The hen may, therefore, grow fat and yet be weak, for she may be richly supplied with certain elements of which she always has an excess, while being very deficient in other elements that are absolutely requisite for the purpose of molting. As the hen has now to supply her own bodily wants, as well as to grow feathers, she has a great drain on her system, and to neglect her for a single day makes it very precarious for her. * * * The hens that molt the earliest always begin to lay the soonest, and, therefore, it is best not to dispose of those that molt early. When once a hen is through molting she has a good start as a layer, and has no further work to do until the succeeding fall but lay, and, if well, will do well in the winter, especially if the quarters are warm. If early pullets are well grown, the late molting hens may be sent to market. Late pullets will not lay in the winter at all, unless they have matured quickly.—Poultry-Keeper.

Unjust to the Incubators.

Great injustice is done to incubators by persons who have used them, and then sold them in a defective condition. To illustrate: A person sells an incubator which has a leaky tank, a leaky lamp, a regulator out of order, etc., etc. The person purchasing this second-hand machine may be a beginner, who knows nothing at all about incubators. Of course, this defective machine does not work. The hatch is poor or fails entirely, and the result is, that that make of machine is blamed, and the manufacturer called a fraud, etc.—The Southern Fancier.

Don't Cross the Breeds.

Editor Curtis, of the Reliable Poultry Journal, believes our opinion that pure breeds should not be crossed to be correct. We never yet saw a man begin to cross his breeds that we did not find him to lose interest and allow his flocks to degenerate. Further, the crossing has already been done to the best advantage when the breeds were made. What is the use of crossing a Hamburg and a Dark Brahma, for instance, when the Wyandotte is already the result of such a cross and has the best characteristics of its ancestors "fixed" by years of judicious selection?—Poultry-Keeper

Strain Involves In-breeding.

It is obvious that this principle of strain involves the much disputed ques-

tion of in-breeding. Of course all the arguments are not on one side, but the conclusions of science, as well as the results of long practice, pretty conclusively prove that in-breeding is not in itself harmful to constitution, vigor and stamina. They are not necessarily impaired in the least by in-breeding. But the very forces of in-breeding which reproduce and perpetuate desired characteristics, are also liable to reproduce undesired qualities either internal or external, if any such are strongly latent in the parent stock. In-breeding has only this one danger, the possibility of latent imperfections or diseases in the parent stock. But providing there is no special tendency to weakness or imperfections in the original stock, in-breeding will never generate them.—American Fancier.

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Barred Plymouth Rocks

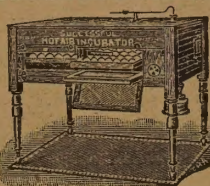
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Fruit Growing

ELMER BRINTNALL, Editor,
Winthrop, Iowa.

Clover in Orchards.

The largest apple grower in the world is Judge Wellhouse, of Kansas. His plan of treating the orchard is somewhat different from that of orchardists in general. As soon as the trees come into bearing he seeds the ground to clover. Twice a year he goes over the ground with a heavy roller furnished with knives similar to those of a cornstalk cutter. This is the treatment he has adopted with all his orchards, having become satisfied that it gives the best results of any yet tried.

A Remedy for Unfruitful Trees.

S. D. Willard, a noted fruit grower of New York, advises the drawing of a fine knife blade around the body of a tree which has the appearance of being healthy but fails to bear fruit. This should be done about the middle of June. He says the result in the majority of cases will astonish those who have never resorted to this practice.

Will Destroy Cabbage Worms.

If the cabbage worms appear on the cabbage this year, as they no doubt will, do not let them have the product, as that is so easy to prevent. Sprinkle on the cabbages while the dew is on, equal parts of flour, salt and ashes. It is a simple but sure remedy for cabbage worms.—Iowa Homestead.

Protect the Quail.

No farmer or fruit grower should kill a single quail, nor should he allow them to be hunted on his premises. Perhaps no other bird that frequents the farm pays a higher price for the grain it eats. Living about the hedgerows, groves and revines where insect enemies gather and lurk the greater part of the year, the quail not only seizes large numbers of these enemies daily during the summer months when they are abroad in the land, but all winter through it scratches among the fallen leaves and other rubbish that accumulates about its haunts, seeking for hibernating insects of various kinds.

*** At Ithica, Michigan, one was picked up that had miscalculated its course and killed itself by flying against a house. On examination of its distended crop it was found to contain 101 potato bugs it had taken for its morning meal, the bugs being yet fresh and alive and began to move when exposed to the air.—Nebraska Hor. Report.

Russian Fruits.

Dwellers in the treeless region of the northwest still hold to the hope of obtaining something of great value in the way of a list of fruit bearing trees from Russia. There has been a small degree of success and much disappointment in connection with past efforts in this direction, but it is believed that the field will yet yield results of great value. The state of North Dakota has recently appropriated money to pay the expenses of one of her horticulturists while prosecuting his researches in Russia.

Thayer's Berry Bulletin for July.

Will it pay to continue strawberry beds more than one year? That depends much upon the condition of the bed at the close of the fruiting season. If the ground is rich, the rows well filled out, the crop light and nearly free from grass and weeds, it will then usually pay to continue one, two or more years. If, however, the plants are exhausted by a large yield, and grass and weeds have been allowed to grow, it will be more work to place old beds in condition than to prepare new ones.

If to be discontinued, plow at once and sow some late crop for feed or fertility.

To renew old beds, mow off plants. As soon as dry burn over, reduce rows to six or eight inches with spade or cultivator. Remove all weeds, every particle of grass, apply a liberal dressing of fine manure, cultivate and keep clean same as new beds.

Right here is one of the great bene-

fits of keeping new beds perfectly clean. It saves a large amount of labor when beds are continued more than one year.

Old beds produce berries a little earlier, and second year is often better than the first, when treated in this manner.

The bearing canes of raspberries and blackberries should be removed immediately after fruiting. Cut out all small weak canes, leaving only five or six in the hill.

The removal of old canes leaves no hiding place for worm or bug, or eggs of same. It also allows the free circulation of air and the sun penetrates the center of the bush, making canes strong and vigorous, with a good development of fruit buds for the following season.

The removal and burning of all dead, weak and surplus growth is the best preventive against disease.



come from the best trees. The best trees are grown in the far North. The very best trees come from our great Minnesota Nurseries—absolutely the best and hardiest that money will buy.

We sell millions of trees and plants every year. This season we want to sell more than ever. Nobody at any price can sell you as good trees as we can at a low price. The thing to remember is that our trees and plants grow. And they bear fruit.

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D. HILL, Evergreen Specialist, DUNDEE, ILL.

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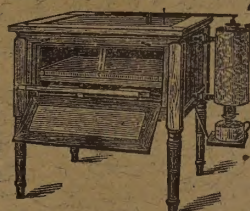
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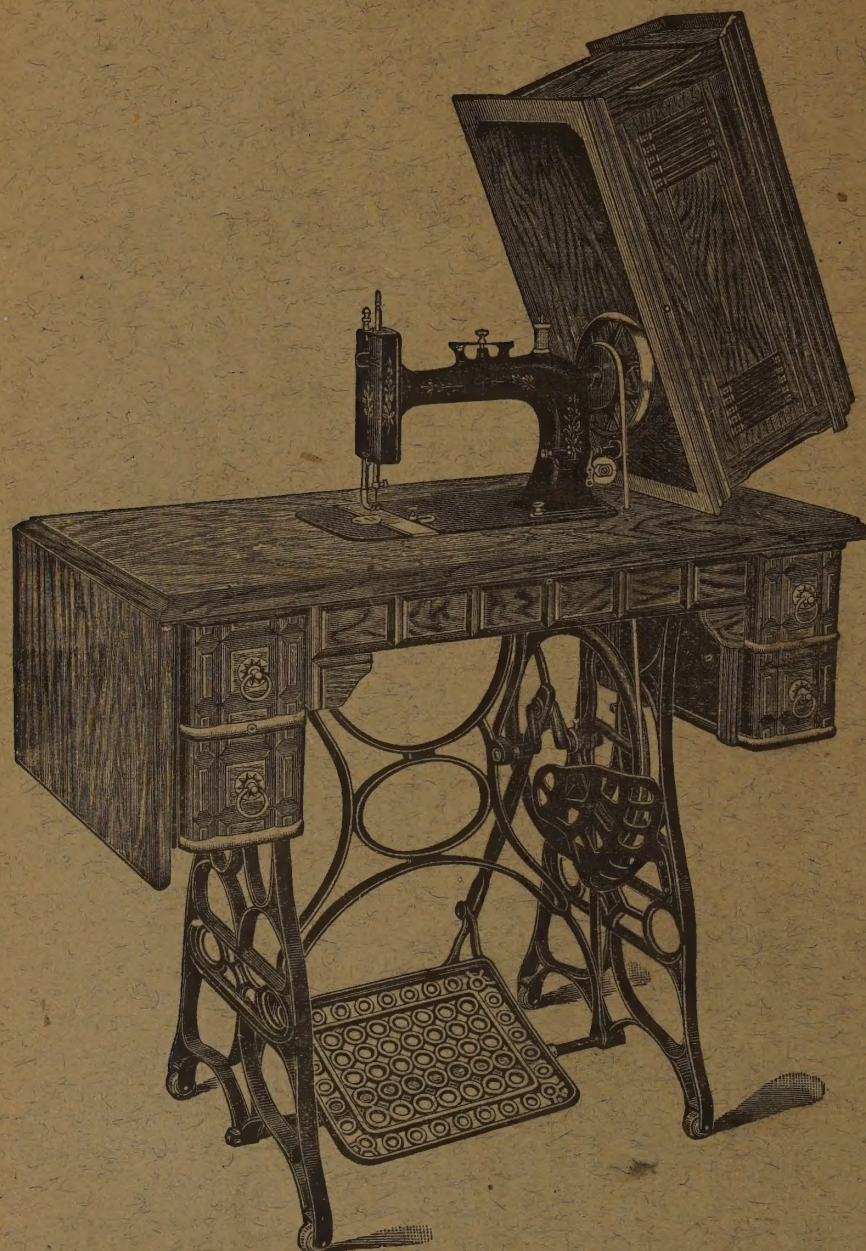
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We claim for this machine that it is the

Best in the World,

This is a strong claim, and yet we believe we have sufficient warrant for making it. We have sold so many of these machines, and no word of complaint having ever come to us from a purchaser, we feel justified in saying that it has no superior. Money cannot buy a machine which will do a greater variety of work, or do it better. There is not a machine made which will last longer, keep as constantly in repair, or give better satisfaction to the user. The manufacturers have combined only that which is practical, and dispensed with the complicated surroundings found in many of the high priced machines.

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THE MESSENGER CO., Aurelia, Iowa.